ALES: ENGINEER OFFICE

MANHATTAN DISTRICT OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

EIDMQ

10 May 1944

Solly John Solder

Subject: Farming Program.

MEMORANDUM to Colonel K. D. Nichols.

- 1. After the protest by the Roane County Farm Bureau was brought to my attention, the Roane-Anderson Company was directed to purchase no more farm equipment without specific authority, except repair or maintenance items costing less than \$20.
- In accordance with your instructions of yesterday, they were also instructed to cease all planting operations. In this connection, however, I feel that it should be called to your attention that the planting of vegetables, which is being undertaken at the present time, is important in order to insure a supply of fresh vegetables for our cafeterias at the project. This program was instituted last year as a result of shortages which existed at that time, and, even with the supplementary assistance of the farms, we were unable to provide even one cafeteria with an adequate supply of all the fresh vegetables demanded by the public. Although I believe that this situation is alleviated to some extent this year, we nevertheless have a much larger problem on our hands, and I do not believe it can be solved by normal purchasing channels. There seems to be a definite desire among all farmers who have truck crops for sale to market their crops in Knoxville where they have established customers and will have the market even though this project discontinues. Among our concessions, we are attempting to establish an open market on the project where farmers may sell vegetables and produce but, to date, have succeeded in interesting only one concessionaire. This particular problem can be solved without great difficulty simply by offering whatever inducements necessary to make such a proposition attractive, but it is believed that the potential shortage should be recognized in stopping all planting operations.
- 3. The matter of grains, corn, etc., which are planted partly for cover crop and partly as food for livestock, is one that I do not feel very strongly about. I am reasonably sure that these could be advantageously purchased in the open market and that no adverse affects would result from discontinuing any further expansion.

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BTLE: 3"

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- 4. Therefore, it is recommended that:
- a. Capt. Anderson be authorized to plant the minimum vegetable crop necessary to supplement other available sources of supply and provide insurance against a shortage during the summer.
- b. All other crops, except any standing forage necessary for cattle, be discontinued.

THOMAS T. CRENSHAW, Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers. Fairing

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